

FOR PUBLICATION

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Criminal No. 2008-39
)	
ROBIXY LOWELL SUTTON,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

ATTORNEYS:

Nolan Paige, AUSA
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.
For the plaintiff,

Jesse A. Gessin, AFD
St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.
For the defendant.

ORDER

GÓMEZ, C.J.

Before the Court is the motion of the United States of America (the "Government") for an order of forfeiture in the above-captioned matter. The defendant, Robixy Lowell Sutton ("Sutton"), has not filed an opposition to the motion.

On August 7, 2008, the grand jury returned a three-count indictment against Sutton. Count One charged Sutton with possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Count Two charged Sutton with using a communication facility in the

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commission of the felony offense of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Count Three charged Sutton with structuring monetary transactions.

The indictment also contained forfeiture allegations. The first forfeiture allegation stated:

Upon conviction of the offenses alleged in Counts One and Two of this Indictment, defendant,

ROBIXY LOWELL SUTTON,

shall forfeit to the United States . . . any property constituting, or derived from, proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the said violations and any property used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit, or to facilitate the commission of the said violations, including but not limited to the following:

Conveyance

One (1) 1999 Cadillac Escalade, Tag No.: TDO-531, V.I.N. No.: 1GYEK13R2XR408919

(Indictment 4, Aug. 7, 2008.)

The second forfeiture allegation stated:

Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count Three of this Indictment, defendant,

ROBIXY LOWELL SUTTON,

shall forfeit to the United States . . . any property, real and personal, involved in the offenses, and any property traceable thereto, including but not limited to the following:

Money Judgment

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A sum of money equal to \$4,000.00 in United States currency, representing the amount of money involved in the offense

(*Id.*)

On September 24, 2008, Sutton agreed to plead guilty to Count One and Three of the Indictment. Pursuant to the plea agreement, Sutton agreed to forfeit to the Government "a sum of money in the amount of \$5,000, in lieu of one Cadillac Escalade, which the government will return to the defendant upon payment of the monetary judgment." (Plea Agreement 6, ¶ a(1).) Sutton further agreed to forfeit "a sum of money equal to \$4,000." (*Id.* at ¶ b(1).)

Also on September 24, 2008, the United States Magistrate Judge conducted a hearing, during which Sutton pled guilty to Counts One and Three of the Indictment. At the hearing, the Government indicated that it would dismiss Count Two of the indictment at sentencing. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Magistrate Judge scheduled Sutton's sentencing for January 28, 2009.

On October 28, 2008, the Court entered an Order accepting Sutton's guilty plea. The Court adjudged Sutton guilty of possession with intent to distribute marijuana, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(D) ("Section 841"), as charged in Count One of the indictment. The Court also adjudged Sutton

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guilty of structuring monetary transactions, in violation of 31

U.S.C. § 5324(a)(3), as charged in Count Three of the indictment.

Pursuant to title 21 U.S.C. § 853(a), any defendant
convicted of a felony drug offense under Section 841

shall forfeit to the United States . . .

(1) any property constituting, or derived from,
any proceeds the person obtained, directly or
indirectly, as the result of such violation;

(2) any of the person's property used, or
intended to be used, in any manner or part, to
commit, or to facilitate the commission of,
such violation

21 U.S.C. § 853(a).

Similarly, 31 U.S.C. § 5317(c)(1)(A) requires:

The court in imposing sentence for any violation of
section . . . 5324 of this title . . . shall order
the defendant to forfeit all property, real or
personal, involved in the offense and any property
traceable thereto.

31 U.S.C. § 5317(c)(1)(A).

Regarding the procedure for imposing criminal forfeiture
upon a defendant, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(b)
provides:

As soon as practicable after a . . . plea of guilty
. . . is accepted, on any count in an indictment
. . . regarding which criminal forfeiture is sought,
the court must determine what property is subject to
forfeiture under the applicable statute. . . . If
the government seeks a personal money judgment, the
court must determine the amount of money that the
defendant will be ordered to pay. The court's

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determination may be based on evidence already in
the record, including any written plea agreement
. . . .

. . . .

At sentencing--or at any time before sentencing if
the defendant consents--the order of forfeiture
becomes final as to the defendant and must be made a
part of the sentence and be included in the
judgment.

Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2(b)(1),(3) (emphasis added).

Here, the Government seeks an order of forfeiture consisting
of a money judgment in the total amount of \$9,000.¹ As the
September 24, 2008, plea agreement makes clear, Sutton has
voluntarily consented to the forfeiture of a \$9,000 money
judgment prior to sentencing.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Government's motion is **GRANTED**; it is
further

ORDERED that Sutton shall **FORFEIT** \$9,000 to the Government;
and it is further

ORDERED that the Government is entitled to a money judgment
in the amount of \$9,000.

S_____
Curtis V. Gómez
Chief Judge

¹ "[N]o ancillary proceeding is required to the extent that
the forfeiture consists of a money judgment." Fed. R. Crim. P.
32.2(c)(1).